Two New Millipeds Taken in California Caves

By Ralph V. Chamberlin

Among millipeds taken in California and submitted to me for identification by Edward Danehy, who has been active for some years with the Stanford spelological group in the exploration of caves in that area, the two forms here described were found. Neither of these forms shows any obvious adaptive modifications to cave life unless the slightness of pigmentation in the ocelli of the *Striaria* should be open to such interpretation. The types of the new forms are in the author's collection.

Family Eurydesmidae

Genus SIGMOCHEIR Chamberlin

The finding of a second species referable to this genus is a matter of interest. The present form seems to be sufficiently distinct from the generotype, *S. calaveras* Chamb. in coloration and the details of the gonopods of the male, although in the latter character they are obviously close. Among related genera *Sigmocheir* agrees with *Montaphe* and *Orophe* in having no spines on the second joint of any of the legs, such a spine being present, although sometimes considerably reduced in the western genera other than these. It differs from *Montaphe* and even more strongly from *Orophe* in the smaller keels which are located higher up on the sides, with the intervening dorsum much less convex than in those genera.

Generotype: *Sigmocheir calaveras* Chamberlin

Sigmocheir dohenyi n. sp.

Head finely reticulate in black above, solid black in the area between antennae, and below this except over the labral region where yellowish. Antennae yellow. Somewhat less than anterior half of collum black, the remaining portion yellow. The immediately following tergites are black between the keels except a large sublunate median area in front of the caudal margin; the black area extends out in a narrow stripe along anterior bor-

der of the keel on each side, the remaining part of which is yellow. Farther back the entire keels are yellow and the median yellow area is enlarged, transversely oblong, to occupy most of the middle part of the metatergites, on the more posterior segments fusing with the yellow area of the keels. The prozonites are greenish white except the caudal portion which is black and a median tongue-like or triangular extension of the black area subdividing the light area, the black also extensing foward on each side between bases of keels. Lower part of tergites and the venter yellow. Basal part of anal tergite black, the cauda yellow. Legs yellow.

Antennae slender, the second to sixth articles not much differing in length, the sixth more strongly clavately widening distad than the others.

Collum much wider than the head and than the second tergite; anterior corners widely obliquely rounded off, the posterior corners narrowly rounded; median portion of anterior margin straight, the caudal margin subarcuate, moderately convex over middle portion and nearly straight at sides where oblique.

Keels inserted rather high up on the sides, horizontal, none overlapping though some may be in contact on anterior segments, well separated over most of body. Keels margined narrowly anteriorly and posteriorly, the lateral margining thicker, pores opening laterally through a moderate thickening of the margin. Keels of anterior segments subrectangular; farther back the anterior corners become more and more rounded off; on last several pairs of keels the posterior corners become produced caudad, those of the 17th and 18th most strongly so, those of the 19th reduced. Cauda narrow, nearly straight; much exceeding the valves.

Legs with none of the joints with a distal spine. Likewise no sternal spines.

Width of female holotype, 7 mm.

Locality: California, Tuolumme Co., Crystal Palace Cave. One female taken in twilight zone by Hal Treacy, Dec. 17, 1951.

Family Striariidae

Striaria eldora new species

Light horn brownish or in part somewhat dusky above from adherent fine particles of dirt, the sides and venter yellow, and legs and antennae yellow.

Eyes pale, the ocelli small, compactly arranged in a triangular patch on each side, 12 or 13 in number. Antennae of moderate length, clavately thickened distad; geniculate at end of second article; the second and fourth articles longest.

Collum resembling that of *granulosa* but relatively shorter, much less than twice as long as the second tergite; the crests unusally low, almost striaform, short, incomplete anteriorly, the surface roughened between them.

The succeeding tergites with the usual twelve crests, these more elevated at their ends; surface between crests finely granular. Anal tergite with the large median lobe caudally rounded, the angle of the indentation separating off the lateral lobe on each side obtuse.

Width, about 1 mm.

Locality: California, Eldorado Co., Crystal Cosumnes Cave. Three females taken in the cave in total darkness by Art Lang and Gill Lange, on Feb. 2, 1952.

Insects of Micronesia

J. Linsley Gressitt has been appointed Entomologist, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu. He is in charge of the project "Insects of Micronesia," now being taken over by Bishop Museum from the Pacific Science Board. A grant of $15,200 has been made to Bishop Museum by the National Science Foundation to help support the project for the next 18 months. One hundred specialists of a dozen countries are now collaborating on the project. J. F. Gates Clarke, N. L. H. Krauss and Dr. Gressitt have been completing the field work in the Caroline Islands during 1952–53 under the Science Board's contract with the Office of Naval Research.